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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 604
By Miller J

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Bowman Hills
Seventh-day Adventist Church for 100 years of
outstanding Christian service.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations and recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enhance the lives of the people in their community; and

WHEREAS, the good people of the Bowman Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cleveland comprise one such congregation, as they will celebrate the Church's 100th Anniversary on March 22 and 23, 2002; and

WHEREAS, in 1902, a public evangelistic tent meeting, in Cleveland, ended with the baptism of fifteen individuals; and

WHEREAS, these fifteen newly committed Christians laid the foundation for the formation of the Cleveland Seventh-day Adventist Church; and

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WHEREAS, this small congregation faithfully met in an “upstairs room” of an old house near the City High School until they were able to build a chapel on 14th Street, which remains a historical fixture in Cleveland; and

WHEREAS, in addition to serving as a place of worship, the chapel on 14th Street served as a church school, teaching numerous scholastic fields along with Christian principles; and

WHEREAS, for over fifty years, the Cleveland Seventh-day Adventist congregation served the Cleveland community in various capacities from the church on 14th Street; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, the congregation decided to relocate and purchased eight acres of land from the Bowman family; and

WHEREAS, after completing their new church building in 1958, the congregation decided to change its name to the Bowman Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church; and

WHEREAS, the congregation of the Bowman Hills S.D.A. Church is an essential part of the Cleveland community; and

WHEREAS, throughout its esteemed history, the members of this congregation have proven to be excellent stewards of the physical and spiritual gifts bestowed upon them by God; and

WHEREAS, as God has continued to bless them, the Bowman Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church has striven to expand its facilities and services to meet the needs of the congregation and the Cleveland community; these improvements have greatly enhanced the congregation’s ability to meet the Lord’s decree to serve His people; and

WHEREAS, following Jesus’ command to “go ye forth and preach,” the Bowman Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church is committed to empowering people through the word of God; in their laudable crusade, they draw inspiration from the outstanding leadership of Pastor Arnold Schnell and the Pastor Jeremy Arnall; and

WHEREAS, Bowman Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church has a long-established legacy of committed service to its community; they have taken to heart the words of St. Francis of Assisi: "Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words"; and

WHEREAS, the fine Christians who comprise the membership of the Bowman Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church personify Paul's words in I Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."; and

WHEREAS, Bowman Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church is among those institutions in our great state upon which a just and orderly society is based; it is a focal point for our citizens to worship their Creator as a community of faith and from which they reach out to the secular community as a response to God's saving grace; and

WHEREAS, for ten decades many excellent leaders in both the religious and secular arena have emerged from the ranks of Bowman Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church; and

WHEREAS, the Bowman Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church has significantly contributed to the social, cultural, and spiritual vitality of the Cleveland community and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Bowman Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church is truly one of the great religious organizations and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and Nation, and the members of this exceptional congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the congregation of the Bowman Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church for their many years of service to God, their community, and to the State of Tennessee, and extend to them our best wishes as they embark on their next 100 years of service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.